



The Winnebago Lakes Council promotes the long-term sustainability of lakes Winnebago, Butte des Morts, Winneconne, and Poygan and their connecting rivers.

The Council's mission is to protect and improve the ecological health and scenic beauty of the Winnebago lakes through citizen involvement in research, education, communication and cooperation.

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Inside This Issue

- 2.... EPA research
- 3.... Help wanted
- 4.... Paddlewheeler fundraiser
Phosphorus-free fertilizers

Citizens asked to participate in regional AIS plan

Public meetings have been scheduled around the Winnebago lakes to give area residents a chance to convey their thoughts about what should be included in a regional plan to control aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Candice Mortara, Lakes Council staff and coordinator of the regional AIS plan, says public participation is needed because buy-in from a wide variety of lake interests helps ensure the plan can be implemented. "We want a plan specific in action. Since implementation will necessarily be a community endeavor, we need to know what area residents and organizations are doing now and willing to do in the future."

The public meetings will consist of small, facilitated discussion groups to give everyone a chance to talk. It is hoped that boaters, anglers, property owners and other water enthusiasts will use this opportunity to be heard. Meetings are scheduled for September 18 and 23 and October 2, 9 and 16 at various locations (see Around the Lakes, p. 2).

Feedback from the public will be reviewed by an Advisory Group of 15 representing a wide variety of interests. This group has already held two planning sessions and will continue to meet throughout the fall, with January 2008 set for a draft plan.

Agency professionals are also participating in the planning effort. Catherine Neiswender

(UWEX), Chad Cook (UWEX), and Rob McLennan (DNR) are overseeing the grant, and five technical experts from the DNR and Sea Grants program are working with the Advisory Group. Public meetings will be facilitated by Anne Forbes from Partners in Place, Madison.

AIS Advisory Group Members

Bob Wojcik, Winnebago Lakes Council
Todd Close, Wolf River Conservation Alliance
Dick Sickinger, Fox River Bait and Tackle
Bill Bush, Fox River Nav System Authority
Rob Way, Winnebago Co. Parks Dept.
Arlene Schmuhl, Oshkosh Conv. & Visitors Bureau
Steve McNeil, Winneconne Village Administrator
Eugene McLeod, Calumet County LWCD
Stephen Brand, Oshkosh Public Works
Mike Buettner, Appleton Water Treatment Utility
Bob Haase, Muskie Clubs Alliance
Pat Braasch, Sturgeons for Tomorrow
Mike Arrowood, Walleyes for Tomorrow
Gary Olson, Appleton Yacht Club

Invasive species are a serious concern for our lakes. Seven invasive species have currently been introduced--common carp, zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, purple loosestrife, rusty crayfish, and VHS. About 180 others are present in the Great Lakes, just a short distance away. The DNR reports that round goby, spiny water flea, fishhook water flea, sea lamprey, and white perch are the greatest current threats to our system. For more information, contact Candice Mortara, 920-739-0299 or kevcan@ameritech.net

Lakes Council Annual Meeting set for September 18

Attend the Lakes Council Annual Meeting on Tuesday September 18, 2007, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the **Coughlin Center, 625 County Road Y, Oshkosh** and stay for the 7:00 p.m. public meeting to provide your input to the regional AIS plan. Program for the Annual Meeting includes a brief annual report of organizational activities, election of new board members, and an opportunity for members to give direction to the board. Light refreshments will be served. Reservations not required.

Editorial Content: Jan Scalpone, Mark Sesing, Jan Keene, Keith Marquardt, Paul Fowler
Photos: Louise Coumbe, Donna VanBuecken

Around the Lakes

Public Meetings Scheduled for AIS Plan

September 18 –October 16. Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

What are you willing to do to stop aquatic invasive species (AIS) in the Winnebago system? Fewer fishing tournaments? No thru traffic on the Fox? Stricter rules for bait disposal? More boat inspectors? Tell us what you think can prevent and control aquatic invasive species on the Winnebago Pool Lakes. Attend the meeting in your area and contribute your ideas to the plan.

September 18, Oshkosh, Coughlin Center, 625 County Road Y

September 25, Winneconne, Village Municipal Center, Community Room, 30 S. First St.

October 2, Stockbridge, Fire Department Conference Room, 175 S. Military Rd.

October 9, Fond du Lac, Government Center, Room D & E, 160 S. Macy St.

October 16, Menasha, location Menasha Library, Company E Room, 440 1st St.

For more information contact Candice Mortara, kevcn@ameritech.net

Calumet County Seeks AIS Coordinator

Calumet County has applied for a state AIS grant to hire a half-time coordinator to address aquatic invasive species. Julie Heuvelman, Director of Planning, said the county board passed a resolution in favor of seeking a coordinator when a number of issues pertaining to invasive species were raised during Smart Growth planning. Heuvelman said the issue is broader than Lake Winnebago; it affects other lakes and marshes in the county. Terrestrial invasives are also a problem that need to be addressed. If the grant is awarded, Heuvelman said the coordinator will be cooperating with groups throughout the Winnebago area.

Events on the Water

September 1-2, Stock & Modified Outboard Boat Races. Menominee Park, Oshkosh. High speed hydroplane boats featured. 920-729-5407.

September 21-23. Winnebago Supercrossing and US Windsurfing National Tour, Roosevelt County Park, Hwy 151-N, Taycheedah
<http://www.fdl.com/calendar.iml>

September 22, Dragon Boat Race and Festival, Fox River and Leach Amphitheater, Oshkosh
Second year for this outstanding event. Find a team to join, volunteer, or just come out and watch. Great fun. <http://www.uwosh.edu/dragonboat/>

EPA brings its stethoscope to Winnebago

Lake Winnebago is scheduled for a health check up this summer. The EPA is initiating a nationwide lakes survey to determine the health of our nation's lakes through a survey of 909 lakes across the land. Lake Winnebago and 28 other randomly selected Wisconsin lakes will make up the mix, and what a mix it is-- from 11 acre Bucks Lake in Florence County to our wonderfully large 133,000 plus acre Lake Winnebago.

Each lake will be visited by an integrated team of scientists (including DNR and United States Geological survey) to check on nutrients, bacteria, plant habitat, invasive species, sediment, and even some lake critters. One primary objective of the project is to develop a health "report card" for our nation's lakes by assigning them a good, fair, or poor grade. Hopefully, Winnebago will not have to stay after school!

These measurements will determine the test scores for each lake;

- * Temperature, oxygen, nutrients, clarity and others.
- * Habitat condition along selected shorelines
- * Zooplankton and Phytoplankton- microscopic animals and plant
- * Dragonflies, snails, lake flies, and more
- * Bacteria that points to animal (yes, humans included) contamination

A final "report card" will be ready in 2009. We expect Winnebago to get a passing grade, but, if the news is less than we expect, we can recall Mom's guiding mantras "do your best, keep trying, that's all we ask" and "don't make me pull this car over" (...well actually, that one might of been Dad's.) – *Mark Sesing, WDNR Lake Specialist*

For more info visit www.epa.gov/owow/lakes/lakessurvey or contact Tim Asplund at (608) 267-7602.

September 7 is final date for written comments on Wisconsin Shoreland Zoning rules

Because of the large number of shoreland properties surrounding the Winnebago Pool, Oshkosh was added to the list of public hearings on Wisconsin's revised shoreland zoning rules (NR115). But if you missed the August 15 hearing in Oshkosh and the August 2 hearing in Green Bay there's still time to submit written comments by September 7.

All the information you need to comment can be found on the Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL) Web site. This Web site allows you to download the proposal. It also provides talking points, background, detailed discussion of good features in the rule, needed adjustments and contact information (<http://www.wisconsinlakes.org>).

These rules contain statewide minimum standards for shoreland development in unincorporated areas. This is the first comprehensive review of the rules since they took effect in 1968. WAL generally supports the new rules, stating "Overall the rule has many good features to help protect the rights of property owners and the public to enjoy good water quality, fish and wildlife, lake recreation and scenic beauty. The rule takes existing uses of property into account and makes it easier for property owners to maintain their property."

Plan to attend the Winnebago Lakes Council's Fundraiser on October 6: a narrated dinner trip on the paddlewheeler up the Wolf River (see p.4)

Did You Miss These Events?

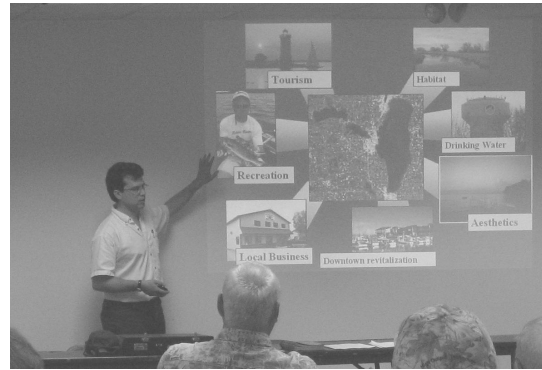
If you didn't attend these events sponsored by the Lakes Council, here's what you missed. If you were there, thanks for coming. Your presence encourages us to have similar educational and scientific events for the protection and improvement of our lakes.

At the Coughlin Center in Oshkosh on April 30

Dr. Mike Lizotte presented a prototype Web tool designed to help organizations work together on lake protection and improvement projects, a key component of the Fox-Wolf Watershed Network. In conjunction with building the data base for this tool, the Lakes Council sent a questionnaire to local conservation organizations about their activities. Response to the questionnaire and meeting was disappointingly low. Nevertheless, the Lakes Council is continuing to look at successful existing lake partnerships—of which there are many—and reconsidering the best way we can encourage these partnerships and increase networking among other organizations.

On May 16th, Winnebago Lakes Council members and friends met at the Fin N' Feather Restaurant

in Winneconne for a lively presentation by Bill Wresch on the trials and tribulations of the Marquette-Joliet expedition through the Lake Winnebago area. Who knew this accomplished UW Oshkosh business professor was also a great history detective? We heard quite a story. About 30 individuals were in attendance and enjoyed learning more about our region's water heritage. We received many positive comments on this event and plan similar talks in the future.



Mike Lizotte explains impacts of aquatic invasive species on the Lake Winnebago system during one of five workshops at the Natural Shoreline Expo.

The first annual Natural Shoreline Expo on June 2 at the Fairgrounds Exposition Center in Oshkosh

attracted about 300 people. At the Lakes Council's booth we talked to numerous people about their shoreline landscaping. Many stopped to look at our detailed map of the pool lakes (available from the Oshkosh Convention and Visitor's Bureau) and enjoy salt water taffy and Suzette Lizotte's homemade scones. Our booth was among 31 booths representing numerous aspects of shoreland management.

The Expo was put on by the Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department. LWCD staff Keith Marquardt said the Expo tripled the number of requests for help with shoreline vegetation buffers over last year. Sponsors included the Lakes Council, Fox Valley Wild Ones, Winnebago Audubon Society, and the Citizens Natural Resources Association of Wisconsin. If you're interested in information about shoreline vegetative buffers contact Keith at 920-232-1950.

Meet board member Mike Lizotte

As you can see from the above articles, the Lakes Council leans heavily on Mike Lizotte to help carry out our mission. This is not surprising, since Mike is one of the nation's leading experts on our lakes.

Mike is Director of the UW Oshkosh Aquatic Research Laboratory. His professional interests are scientific research in aquatic ecology, particularly algal blooms, and environmental education. He received his PhD from the U. of Southern California and his masters from Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Mike initiated the Winnebago Pool lakes citizens water quality monitoring program and has trained over 120 people to monitor the lakes for water clarity. He wrote the aquatic invasive species education, prevention and control grant for Winnebago County, bringing \$75,000 into the county for education, boat inspections and AIS regional planning. He is supervising the Clean Boats, Clean

Waters program and this summer hired 15 UW Oshkosh interns to inspect boats at public boat landings. He is now holding training sessions on monitoring for AIS.

Most local conservation organizations and governments know Mike, since he's often asked to comment on sometimes controversial lake issues. His approach is calm, clear and scientific. As a member of the Lakes Council, he repeatedly inserts the message that water quality is a common goal that unites us all.

Mike also serves on the board of the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance. His personal interests include biking and hiking; reading in the areas of history, mystery and politics; gardening, and spending time with his wife and daughters. Early in 2008 he will spend three months on a scientific expedition in Antarctica. He's been there before, and to the Arctic. The Lakes Council will miss him.

Help Wanted!

Board Members. We are looking to diversify the Lakes Council's board and broaden its geographical coverage. We have a minimum of five positions to fill. If you have a keen interest in our lakes or have had experience with similar organizations and are willing to spend a few hours a month helping achieve the Lakes Council's mission, please contact us. Our meeting times are flexible and can be adjusted to your schedule. We are still a comparatively new organization, so you can have a significant impact in setting our direction.

Volunteers. We have specific needs for volunteers with expertise in QuickBooks and membership databases. These jobs require only one or two hours a month and the ability to work independently. Contact us at info@winnebagolakes.org or call Mike Lizotte at 920-424-0848.

Join Us

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Area vendors now stock phosphorus-free fertilizer

We frequently talk about limiting phosphorus in lawn fertilizer as a way to help address Wisconsin's top water quality problem—polluted runoff. Now there's an easy way for property owners to help. Phosphorus free fertilizers are becoming more acceptable to the public, so if you must fertilize, choose one of these. To make it easy, the Winnebago Land and Water Conservation Department recently compiled a list of local sources of phosphorus free fertilizer. It includes retail establishments and cooperatives. We've printed the list here.

Phosphorus is a leading cause of algae blooms and other water quality problems in lakes. Many communities are working on ordinances to ban the sale of fertilizer with phosphorus. A few have

already done so—Door County and Dane County are the most noted examples. Other communities have passed resolutions in support of a statewide ban. The state legislature is considering ways to phase out unnecessary phosphorus lawn fertilizer. Research has shown that most soil in Wisconsin has sufficient phosphorus for a healthy lawn. For a soil test contact your county UWEX office.

Our first fundraiser. . .

**Show your support for the Lakes Council
Dinner on the Fin N' Feather Paddlewheeler
Saturday, October 6, 2007, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Backyard Organics, LLC Neenah	Mills Fleet Farm Oshkosh	Larsen Coop Larsen
Kitz and Pfeil Oshkosh	Stein Garden Center Oshkosh	Olsen Mills Berlin
Menards Oshkosh	Wal-Mart Oshkosh	Greenville Coop Greenville
Mills Fleet Farm Appleton	Larsen Coop New London	Pickett Cooperative Pickett

Enjoy dinner and a narrated cruise on the paddlewheeler as we travel the Wolf River. This will be a fun time to enjoy the fall colors, meet other WLC members, and give our treasury a much needed boost. Guests are welcome.

Reservations required. Please send checks to Karen Beckstrom, 4626 N. Sandy Beach Lane, Oshkosh, WI. 54902, 920-651-9457. \$50.00 per person includes a full dinner meal. A cash bar will also be available. Arrive early as departing time is 6 p.m. sharp. For more information contact us at info@winnebagolakes.org.